(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry against them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There are twenty three (23) retail outlet dealerships in Darbhanga district in Bihar. A complaint against one dealer has been received by the concerned oil company. On investigation, it was found that the dealer was overcharging the customers. Suitable penal action of suspension of supplies for fifteen days, a fine of Rs. 2,000/- and a warning latter as provided under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, has been taken against the erring dealer.

[English]

Bridge on N.H. 47

1849. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the replacement of the old bridge across the Kuzhithurai river on the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum N.H. 47; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The work for reconstruction of bridge across Kuzhithurai river on NH-47 (Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Section of Tamil Nadu) has been included in the Annual Plan 1997-98 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.00 Crore.

External Commercial Borrowing for Airbus and Boeings

1850. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for an external commercial borrowing to meet the cost of proposed airbus and boeing aircraft;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such loan; and

(c) the agencies identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Funds for purchase of aircraft are arranged by Air India partly through internal resource generation and partly by raising loans from the market.

[Translation]

Standard of Education

1851. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the standard of education has deteriorated; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to check the declining trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) There is no standardised touchstone to merit a generalised statement about the decline of educational standards. Standards vary from time to time in all institutions. However, the Government is fully conscious of the need to upgrade the quality and content of education in the various institutions and has been taking up specific programmes in this respect in pursuance of National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. For improvement of primary education Operation Blackboard (OB), Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Teacher Education alongwith District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are the major centrally sponsored schemes. A number of measures have also been taken to improve content and process of education at all stages. Some of the measures are renewal of curricula, improvement of quality of textbooks, in service training of teachers to improve their professional competence and utilisation of educational technology to bring about improvement in the quality of education. In order to foster quality in technical and higher education, Accreditation Councils have been set up by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC).

[English]

Funds to Assam

1852. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Assam under Central Road Fund during 1996-97 and the amount earmarked for 1997-98;

(b) the work undertaken by the State Government during 1996-97;

(c) the quantum of funds utilised by the State Government so far and the amount still lying unutilised;

(d) whether the proposals submitted by the State Government have been approved by the Union Government for development of roads in Assam; and

(e) if not, by when the remaining proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) An amount of Rs. 18 lakhs was allocated under Central Road Fund (CRF) during the year 1996-97 to the State of Assam. It is too early to indicate the allocation for the year 1997-98.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for execution of schemes sanctioned under CRF is the responsibility of the respective State Government and State Governments are expected to monitor the utilisation of funds.

(d) and (e) During the year 1996-97 one scheme involving an amount of Rs. 38.43 lakhs was sanctioned. As on 31.3.97 the State of Assam is having a debit balance and it may not be possible to sanction any more scheme for the present.

Storage Capacity of Rivers

1853. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the storage capacity of the rivers in the country has been going down due to not undertaking their deepening work for the last so many years;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the storage capacity of the rivers and formulated any scheme to increase the storage capacity of the rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Changes in the river storage (carrying) capacity is a natural morphological phenomenon. However, to reduce the silt runoff in the rivers, various measures such as afforestation, soil conservation and catchment area treatment etc. in various river valleys are taken up.

Vacancies

1854. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether many posts of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether examinations have not conducted for the above posts despite the fact that these posts had already been advertised in August-September, 1996; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) As on 1.4.96, 3720 posts of teachers of various categories were lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. An advertisement was issued for filling up posts of teachers in June, 1996. On the basis of interviews, 2001 candidates have been selected for appointment to various categories of posts. Interviews for filling up about 500 vacancies of Trained Graduate Teachers are likely to be completed by September, 30, 1997. Recruitment process for 680 posts of Music Teachers , Drawing teachers, Socially Useful Productive Work (SUPW) teachers, Physical Education teachers and Librarians has also been initiated.

[Translation]

Renovation of Kota Airport

1855. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the renovation of Kota airport along with the items of work taken up during the last three years;

(b) whether private airlines were permitted to fly on Delhi-Jaipur-Kota air route;

(c) if so, the names of such companies, the period for which their aircraft operated on this route alongwith the reasons for discontinuing the above mentioned air services;

(d) whether the Government had entered into a contract with these airlines before introducing their services;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount received by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The amount spent on the renovation of Kota Airport during last three years is Rs. 1.53 crores approximately.

(b) to (f) Airlines are free to operate their services to any airport in the country, subject to approval by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, fulfilment of the route dispersal guidelines and other relevant provisions of rules prescribed by the Government, and meeting the requirements of permits issued to them. Government does not enter into contract with airlines.

Reduction of Pay

1856. SHRI RAMMURTI SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to reduce the pay of some of the historians in the Indian Council for Historical Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines of the Council in this regard;

(d) the total number of those historians in respect of whom this decision has been taken; and